

Message Text

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PAGE 01 YAOUND 01356 310659Z

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 IGA-02 MC-02 EB-08 OMB-01 TRSY-02

ACDA-07 /081 W

-----010357Z 082193 /75

R 310630Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1461

INFO AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

C O N F I D E N T I A L YAOUNDE 1356

NDJAMENA FOR USDATT

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, MASS, MOPS, CM

SUBJ: USDATT VISITS CAMEROON

REF: (A) STATE 66487 (B) YAOUNDE 1268 (C) YAOUNDE 1227

(D) YAOUNDE

1. MARCH 27 USDATT LT. COL. IRVING FROM NDJAMENA COMPLETED TWO-WEEK CAMEROON ORIENTATION TRIP DURING WHICH HE TRAVELLED BY ROAD FROM NDJAMENA TO NGAOUNDERE, BY TRAIN TO YAOUNDE, AND BY ROAD TO DOUALA, BAFOUSSAM, BAMENDA, VICTORIA AND RETURN NDJAMENA BY ROUGHLY SAME ROUTE.

2. DURING YAOUNDE VISIT MARCH 24-25 USDATT MET MINISTER OF STATE FOR ARMED FORCES SADOUD DAODOU, SECRETARY GENERAL IBRAHIM WADJIRI, ASSISTANT COORDINATOR MAJOR MPAY, HEAD OF LIAISON OFFICE MAJOR HIOL, LT. COL. OUSMANOU DAOUDA, CHIEF OF PRESIDENT'S MILITARY CABINET, FRENCH MILITARY ATTACHE COL. LAMORT AND SENIOR FRENCH ADVISOR TO GENDARMERIE LT. COL. LANVIN. WHILE MOST OF CONVERSATIONS OF BRIEF PROTOCOL NATURE, USDATT WAS IMPRESSED WITH DEGREE OF ACCESS WHICH HE ABLE OBTAIN DURING SHORT
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VISIT.

3. MAJOR MPAY SUBSTITUTED FOR GENERAL SEMENGUE WHO OUT OF TOWN ON OFFICIAL MISSION. HE MADE PITCH FOR PROMPT DELIVERY M-16 RIFLES (REFTEL C), A PLEA WHICH WAS ECHOED LATER BY MINISTER DAODOU. IN ADDITION, MPAY SAID GURC WANTED OUR SUPPORT IN PROCURING ADDITIONAL JEEPS, TRUCKS AND ROAD-

BUILDING EQUIPMENT (REFTEL B). RESPONSE WAS THAT PROPOSAL FOR FMS STILL BEFORE CONGRESS AND THAT WE WOULD HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL FAVORABLE CONGRESSIONAL ACTION ON PRESENT PROPOSALS BEFORE ANY ADDITIONAL REQUESTS COULD BE ENTERTAINED. IN MEANTIME TRADITIONAL COMMERCIAL SOURCE PROCUREMENT (NAPCO) ALWAYS AVAILABLE.

4. DURING LONG CONVERSATION WITH COL. LAMORT LITTLE HARD INFO EMERGED. LAMORT USED FAMILIAR COLONIAL METAPHORE OF "IN THE LAND OF THE BLIND, THE ONE EYED MAN IS KING" BY COMPARING FAVORABLY CAMEROON WITH SURROUNDING COUNTRIES ECONOMICALLY, POLITICALLY AND MILITARILY. HE PAINTED ROSY BUT DEPRECATING PICTURE CAMEROON, BUT COMMENTED IT LOOK GOOD IN TERMS OF STABILITY WHEN COMRARED WITH OTHER COUNTRIES IN REGION. HE SPOKE OF MILITARY MANEUVERS WHICH HAVE JUST STARTED AND OBSERVED THAT THEY WILL NOT BE REGULAR MANEUVERS ENGAGING ALL OF THE TROOPS AT THE SAME TIME BUT PROGRESS WEEK AT A TIME DIFFERENT MILITARY SECTORS WITH SEVERAL DAYS OF EXERCISES EACH. (FYI: THIS INFO SINCE PUBLISHED IN CAMEROON TRIBUNE. END FYI) THE SOUTHERN-MOST SECTOR (FIRST SECTOR TH YAOUNDE HEADQUARTERS) WILL AVOID ANY TRAINING NEAR BORDERS WHICH MIGHT ALARM NEIGHBORS. EXERCISES WILL FINISH IN NORTH NEAR NGAOUNDERE, WHERE NORMALLY NO TROOPS (ONLY GENDARMES) STATIONED.

5. USDATT OBSERVED THAT TRIP HAD BEEN MOST USEFUL AND THAT IN MANY RESPECTS HE FELT HE HAD BETTER ACCESS AND LEARNED MORE DURING HIS BRIEF CAMEROON VISIT THAN DURING HIS STAY NDJAMENA. HOWEVER, HE OBSERVED THAT TRAVEL FUNDS VERY TIGHT AND HE DOBTED HE WOULD BE ABLE MAKE VERY MANY TRIPS. EMBASSY FOUND VISIT
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MOST HELPFUL AND HOPES THAT IF MAP ADOPTED FOR CAMEROON AND USDATT CONTINUES HAVE RESPONSIBILITY THIS PROGRAM (REFTEL A), MEANS WILL BE FOUND FOR MORE FREQUENT USDATT VISITS.
SPIRO

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY VISITS, MILITARY ATTACHES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 31-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977YAOUNDE01356
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770111-0655
Format: TEL
From: YAOUNDE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t1977031/aaaaaafn.tel
Line Count: 101
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 408507ac-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 66487, 77 YAOUNDE 1268, 77 YAOUNDE 1227
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22-Dec-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2931084
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: USDATT VISITS CAMEROON
TAGS: MILI, MASS, MOPS, CM, (IRVING)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/408507ac-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009